

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
April 4, 2007  
Hampton Inn, Okemos, Michigan  
10:00 am — 3:00 pm  
Minutes**

Delegates Present: Cindy Anderson, Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Tina Densmore, Judith Dorsch-Backes, Jonelle Gillette, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Doris Higgs, Elaine High, Robert Hove, Maggie Kolk, Shari Krishnan, Paul Kubicek, Jerry Oermann, David Overly, Susan Peters, Richard Spring, Debbie Squires, Chuck Stockwell, Barbara Stork, Jan VanGasse, Claudia Werner, Julie Winkelstern

Alternates Present: Laura Eckenrode, Mischelle Driscoll

MDE Staff Present: Karen Filliez, Meredith Hines, Matt Korolden, Ann Omans, Harvalee Saunto, Deborah Clemmons, Beth Steenwyk, Pat West

Ex-Officio Present: Lynn Boza, Mark Larson, Michelle Robinson

Guests Present: Carolyn Smith-Gerdes, Glynn Heller, Kelly Orginski

SEAC Consultant: Sandi Laham

- I. Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M.
- II. Roll Call  
Roll Call was taken.
- III. Introduction of Guests  
Guests were introduced.
- IV. Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda  
The agenda was approved.  
(Note: To request an amendment, the purpose and desired outcome must be stated.)
- V. Amend/Approve March 7, 2007 Minutes  
The minutes were approved.
- VI. Public Comment - None
- VII. Member Comment
  - MATCEI (Michigan Association of Teachers of Children with Emotional Impairments) Conference will be April 25-27 at Boyne, "Changing Direction Without Losing Your Way"
- VIII. Chairperson's Report

- Vice-Chair Beverly Baroni-Yeglic facilitated the meeting.
- New Executive Committee to stay after meeting to nominate Chair and Co- chair of next year's Executive Committee.
- Members to check calendars for June 18-29, 2007, to establish date for a Special Meeting of the SEAC.
- The personal curriculum is still in the development stages. Written questions taken during the presentation and given to Bob Hove.
- Deb Clemmons, Supervisor of the Office of School Improvement, will attend the subcommittee meetings to discuss personal curriculum.

## IX. State Reports

1. Due Process Hearing Report: Harvalee Saunto
  - Reported on last 6 months.
  - Summary of decisions will be reported quarterly to SEAC.
  - 1-tier hearing system. 17 cases remain on the old 2-tier system.
  - State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (SOAHR) -- administrative law judges are hearing officers.
  - Number of complaints filed are about half of last year. Forty-four due process complaints were filed since July 1. Twenty-six have been resolved. Three had full hearings. Twenty-three were completed without a full hearing. Eighteen are still pending.
  - Next year: opportunity for field input on revised procedures.
  - Mediation, available for all disputes, has significantly increased; MSEMP Michigan Special Education Mediation Program. [www.cenmi.org/msemp](http://www.cenmi.org/msemp)
2. BETH STEENWYK REPORT:
  - Calendar:
    - May 2 SEAC Learning Opportunity will be on Public Reporting.
    - June 6 SEAC Learning - Rules and LEA Determinations
      - MDE will share the process for SEAC to make public comment on the rules
    - June 28 SEAC Learning: Special Meeting
      - MDE will share status of criteria development for LEA Determinations to assist SEAC in providing input during this special meeting
  - Clarification on current rule package:
    - 230 day rule – MI must eliminate the standard that all students with a certain eligibility receive a specific program. IDEA is clear that the IEP determines the program based on individual need.
    - 230 day issue: we need to be cautious in how we pair that with extended school year.
    - Important to keep IEP and personal curriculum separate
    - Age 26 provision is a MI standard not a federal one. Therefore, we cannot use federal money to pay for services beyond age 22. Michigan must identify all rules that exceed the federal standards.

### General Supervision Document

- MDE-OSE/EIS provided SEAC with draft "IDEA 2004 Regulations Review and General Supervision Action Plan" which OSE-EIS used to determine rules in need of changing as a result of IDEA 04.
- Reviews Federal regulations, Michigan regulations, differences, State assurances, Public Agency assurances.
- Asks of Michigan:
  1. Meet Federal Standards?
  2. Does not meet Federal Standards?
  3. Exceed Federal Standards?
  4. What action needs to occur?
- Identified areas to change in Michigan to come into compliance with Federal Law
- Option: Michigan could abandon rules.  
*Because the Michigan mandate was prior to the Federal Regulations, Michigan has followed State Rules more than Federal Standards. This is changing; example – Michigan is one of the few states that hasn't adopted a standard for educational interpreters.*
- Michigan needs to assure that the full continuum of services is offered.
- LEA Determinations (June 28: Special Meeting)
- Determinations will have four levels as required by OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education):
  1. Meets standards
  2. Needs assistance
  3. Needs intervention
  4. Needs substantial intervention
- SEAC to provide input to MDE-OSE/EIS
- LEAs will be notified of status; information is not required to be made public.

- X. Reports from Ex-Officio Members: Lynn Boza (Michigan Rehabilitation Services)
- Deputy Director is retiring. Retirement event is April. 17.
  - Revising transition online course. Looking for volunteers to look at the course and give comment on it.

- XI. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:
- Communications and Electronic Access – none
  - Bylaws

- XII. Information Items<sup>1</sup> - By-law Amendments
- Introduced by the Vice-Chairperson.
  - Changes are to strengthen and clarify the bylaws. Three procedures were added.
  - Discussion.
  - Vote on Amendments at May 2 SEAC meeting

- XIII. Action Items - None

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<sup>1</sup> Items requiring action by the SEAC are presented first as Information Items and then again as Action Items the following month.

- XIV. Member Announcements
- MAPSA – Chuck Stockwell announced a special project: Parent Resource Center Guide “Vision for a New Way” special education website [www.visionforanewway.org](http://www.visionforanewway.org) and distributed brochures
- XV. SEAC Learning  
Personal Curriculum and Educational Development Plans: Beth Steenwyk and Matt Korolden
- Section 1278(a), Section 1278(b) of the Michigan Graduation Requirements law.
  - Personal Curriculum can be a tool for all students.
  - “Practicable” means understanding personal curriculum as a tool.  
*Discussion....*
  - Local boards of education may determine local graduation requirements, which may be more but not be less than the State requirements.
  - Personal Curriculum needs to align with the EDP. The IEP supports the child to achieve.
  - IDEA defines the diploma as the same as defined in NCLB (“meets state standards for all children”).
- XVI. Subcommittee Work Sessions:
- High School Reform – Group 1
  - High School Reform – Group 2
  - Proactive and Early Intervention for All - Group 3
- XVII. Reconvene Committee of the Whole
- The Committee of the Whole reconvened at 2:30 p.m.
- XVIII. Subcommittee Report-Outs  
Group 1 & 2 Report
- Deb Clemmons, Office of School Improvement (OSI) presented a question and answer period on Personal Curriculum.
  - Meeting in May to complete end of year report.
- Group 3 Report
- Bob Hove will circulate a rough draft of the year end report to the subcommittee.
  - Meeting in May to complete year end report.
- XIX. Future Agenda Considerations
- Possible dates for late June meeting: June 20-28
- XX. Process Check
- Positive
- XXI. Adjournment
- The Meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

**Special Education Advisory Committee  
Executive Committee**

**April 4, 2007**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Hampton Inn, Okemos, Michigan**

**Minutes**

Executive Committee Members Present: Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Robert Hove, Jerry Oermann, Susan Peters, Julie Winkelstern, Jan VanGasse

MDE Members Present: Karen Filliez, Meredith Hines, Ann Omans, Beth Steenwyk  
Matt Korolden, Harvalee Saunto

SEAC Consultant: Sandi Laham

1. Review of Today's Agenda
  - a. Invited Presentations for SEAC Learning
    - Matt Korolden, Beth Steenwyk – Personal Curriculum and Educational Development Plans,
    - Harvalee Saunto – Due Process Hearings Report
  - b. Chairperson's Report
    - Nominations for Chair and Co-Chair of Executive Committee
    - Dates for Special late June meeting
    - Have Bob Hove gather questions on the Personal Curriculum Presentation
    - Deb Clemmons will meet with [subcommittees](#).
  - c. State Department Reports
    - Beth [Steenwyk](#) will present the General Supervision Document used to prepare the current rules package
    - Forecast the May and June meeting activities
  - d. Information Items<sup>1</sup>
    - By-Law Amendments
  - e. Action Items (if any) – None
2. Future Agenda Development
  - May 2 Learning Presentation on Public Reporting
  - June 6 Learning Presentation on Rules Package and Criteria for LEA Determinations
  - Late June meeting – Rules Comment and LEA Determinations
  - Close out of Subcommittee Work
  - Announce Executive Chair and Co-Chair

3. Other

- Discuss Development of Member Survey regarding Notebooks, Meeting Process, Meeting Facility, Food, etc.
- 2007-08 Executive Committee Meet with Present Executive Committee
- Begin to Think About Next Year's Priorities/Retreat
- Discuss Options for Varying Meeting Setting and Format
- Expectations -
  - Commitment To SEAC
  - Preparation for SEAC
  - Attendance for the Whole Meeting Day

4. Adjournment – (Executive Committee will debrief following today's afternoon Committee of the Whole meeting.)



***Next Mailing Date from OSE-EIS:  
April 18, 2007***

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